

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. a. In July 1953 the total number of trained reservists, excluding labor troops, was 1,540,000.
- b. Exemptions from military service do not exist except for serious health reasons such as permanent disability, tuberculosis, heart and nerve diseases. Deferment is allowed only for students.
- c. Labor troops are composed of soldiers who are considered politically unreliable for service with fighting units. Their total strength is estimated to be approximately 35,000.
- d. Registration of all men up to 55 years of age who had not done their military service started in May 1953. They had to pass a medical examination and were interviewed individually by a board consisting of an Army officer and two civilians. Inquiries were made by the board into conscripts' private affairs, political views and affiliations. The majority of them were classified "B" (fit for auxiliary services) and were told that they would be called up, as it becomes necessary, for military training. Until March 1954 no call-up of these men had taken place, although the registration was completed by December 1953.
- e. In all factories and enterprises an official called "Vojensky referent" (military record clerk) has been introduced. This official is subordinate to the respective District Military Command. He keeps up-to-date complete files of all employees who are in the Army reserve. Thus every reservist is registered twice, at his place of residence and at his place of employment. All changes affecting the individual's life have to be reported to the "Vojensky referent", who enters them in his files and reports them to the Military District Command as well.
2. Morale of the armed forces in general is very low. Some 60% of the junior officers and other ranks are anti-régime, 20% are indifferent, and the remainder are for the régime. The material situation, especially that of junior officers, has deteriorated since they lost their privileges following the abolition of food and other rationing in June 1953. Political

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officers are generally hated by all ranks and considered to be spies of the Communist Party. The reservists especially are considered an unreliable element, which has a very bad effect on the morale of conscripts and regulars. The Soviet officers are not liked; they are referred to as "Ivans" or "Chujenkos" even by officers.

3. Officers and young cadets are sent to the USSR for courses and to military schools. A 22-year-old son of Col. Smrcka, head of the Nase Vojsko publishing company, who is a lieutenant in the Czech Army, was sent to the Soviet Military Academy for four years. In October 1953 three special trains took 600 officers to the USSR for various military studies. Airforce officers are sent to Rumania, probably for firing practice on the Black Sea coast.
4. Special weapons, such as A.T. guns and rockets, are supplied by the USSR; other Soviet-type armament is produced in Czechoslovakia and supplied to other Satellite countries including China, North Korea,  25X1
5. SVAZARM (Union for Cooperation with the Army) is a paramilitary organization for the training of the civilian population. In the event of mobilization, SVAZARM will take over all non-military road transport and arrange for the evacuation of civilian population. SVAZARM is organized on territorial lines. Local organizations are subordinated to district organizations, which in turn are subordinated to regional organizations. There are two main SVAZARM headquarters: in Prague, and in Nitra. These are controlled by the Central Committee in Prague, which is headed by General Cenek Hruska. District organizations have a secretariat with three full-time employees (chairman /usually a reserve officer/, secretary, and a clerk); regional headquarters have from nine to twelve employees. At all levels the chairman of SVAZARM is automatically a member of the Action Committee of the National Front.
6. SVAZARM activities include the following: Supervision of military training in public schools, supervision of civil-defense training, motor-vehicle driving, flying, gliding, signal training, breeding of carrier pigeons, medical and first-aid training, and dog training. SVAZARM also publishes three general periodicals: SVAZARM, Vestnik SVAZARMU, and Obrana Vlasti, besides special magazines for flying, gliding, etc. The SVAZARM budget is covered by grants from the Ministry of National Defense. SVAZARM members do not wear uniforms, but they have special badges and membership cards. The badges are of two sizes: 4 cm. and 1½ cm. in diameter. They have a red star with a superimposed golden lion and the word SVAZARM in a semicircle at the bottom; the lower part of the star is surrounded by golden leaves. The membership cards are gray. On the front cover is a SVAZARM badge in red and yellow; inside are a photograph and four pages. The membership card is valid for five years.
7. The following permanent AA position are located in the Prague area:
  - a. north of the castle along Jeleni Prikop (six heavy guns);
  - b. five positions around Ruzyně airport (only one consisting of four guns is occupied, the rest are concrete gun emplacements only);
  - c. southwest of Jinonice (just south of Mala Ohrada-Hvisdalka);
  - d. between Butovice and Zlichov (concrete gun emplacements only).
8. Two large underground installations are being constructed in Prague: an alleged military headquarters under the Children's Hospital and the University in Prague 2, and an alleged shelter for the government under the Letna hill, opposite Strakova Akademie.

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